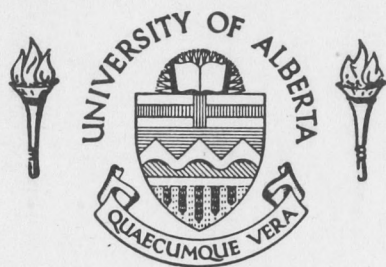


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# The Icelandic Canadian

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## THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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## EDITORIAL

## THE COMMON BOND

"In the beginning God created the earth . . . ." Man with all his complex cultures and varied ways, despite his far-flung dispersal, universally believes in an almighty creator. The Creator, by whatever name a nation, tribe or band may call upon Him, is credited with the miraculous deed of having brought life into being.

The complexities of the highest orders of life as well as the remarkable simplicity of the lowest, even in their purely physical aspects, present enlightening evidence of patterns, laws, and energies far beyond the ingenious capabilities of the present human mind. Add life to these varied systems and we have a miracle. Man's difficulty in discovering the secrets of the fundamentals of this miraculous masterpiece has aroused in him throughout the ages an instinctive awe but yet an admiration for nature.

With himself, the highest known order of it, man has in nature a common source. Man's very existence, regardless of location, color, creed, or culture, is dependent on the life around him. Certainly living nature nourishes his physical being. What profound possibilities there are for nature to nourish his soul!

It is not by any mere chance that life around them has inspired poets of all nations, poets of all times, and poets of all places to produce living literary masterpieces. They see in the life around them their "Maker" and this revelation gives birth to an inspiration which creates a deep desire to impart to others the feelings and experiences enjoyed by themselves through an aesthetic relationship with

nature..

What great satisfaction Bliss Carman must have enjoyed when he made the discovery that prompted him to say:

"I took one day to search for God  
And found him not. But as I trod  
By rocky ledge through woods untamed  
I saw His footprint in the sod."

.....  
"Then suddenly all unaware  
Far off in the deep shadows where  
A solitary Hermit thrush  
Sang through the holy twilight hush  
I heard His voice upon the air."

A personality such as the author of the above stanzas surely realizes that the same miracle reveals itself in his fellow man with profoundly greater emphasis.

Christina Rossetti experienced similar sensations when she was inspired to write:

"The merest grass,  
Along the road path where we pass  
Lichens and moss and sturdy weed  
Tell of His love who sends the dew  
The rain and sunshine too  
To nourish one small seed."

Matthew Arnold found it fitting to express himself, briefly but forcefully on the subject by exclaiming:

"Here at my feet what wonders pass  
What endless active life is here!"

Wordsworth considered the life around him a constant companion and thus it became a source of inspiration which led him to say:

"Knowing that nature never did betray  
The heart that loved her;  
.....for she can so inform

The mind that is within us, so impress  
With quietness and beauty and so feed  
With lofty thoughts, that neither evil  
tongues,  
Rash judgements, nor sneers of selfish  
men,  
Nor greetings where no kindness is,  
nor all  
The dreary intercourse of daily life,  
Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb  
Our cheerful faith, that all which we  
behold  
Is full of blessings . . . . ."

In this article the author sets out what he thinks are the outstanding qualities of the man who suddenly became the "phenomenon of Canadian politics" and what special circumstances brought about the overwhelming victory. At first he refers to the Prime Minister's personality and speaks of him as a man "who exudes personal magnetism on the platform" and gives the voters "cascades of oratory". But in the article (and in the advance notices) the main emphasis is placed upon the Prime Minister's mixed racial origin and the vote-getting instrument it turned out to be.

Mr. MacKaye begins by pointing to the emergence of self-government in Canada almost a century ago "as the result of a series of compromises by two conflicting cultures best exemplified by Roman Catholic French-speaking Quebec and Protestant English-speaking Ontario. Early governments, he says, were in essence coalitions of these two elements, "cabinet jobs parceled out to achieve racial and sectional, balance", in a biracial nation, French and British.

But there has been a marked change and it has had its startling effect upon the vote-getting powers of Mr. Diefenbaker. Mr. MacKaye, who says that Diefenbaker has a political ear which can pick up whispers, continues:

"Biracialism is still important in the Canadian system. But it did create an oligarchy of political leaders of British-French origin. And the nation is a changing nation. . . .

"Diefenbaker's name, in actuality, gave him an identification with minorities that became a valuable political asset. . . .

"Political experts believe Diefenbaker got 90 per cent of the votes of

the ethnic groups who regard themselves, for whatever reason, as Canada's outsiders-looking-in".

The third element in Canada's population, the non-Anglo-French, who constitute almost a quarter of the population, have successfully challenged the biracialism of the past. Canada is bilingual but not biracial. The new element gave expression to their thoughts when for the first time they had a chance to vote for a Prime Minister who, in his own words, is "of neither altogether English nor French blood". That together with Mr. Diefenbaker's personal magnetism on the platform and in TV is what made the Prime Minister of Canada, in the words of Milton MacKaye "one of the great modern masters of political legerdemain."

★

### Reaching to the Children's Children

Elsewhere in this issue is a translation of the essential thoughts in the greetings brought by the Fjallkona the Maid of the Mountains, to her children and grandchildren at the Icelandic celebration in Gimli this year. Many of the grandchildren, and in some instances the children, who were present, do not understand Icelandic. To them, no less than to those who understood Icelandic, the greetings were extended. They have a tender spot in their hearts for Iceland and its people. The spirit though not the language has been transmitted to them and their vehicle of expression is English. The question may well be posed: Has not the time come when the Maid of the Mountains, if she is to reach her children's children, must extend her greetings in both English and Icelandic.



## DR. GEORGE JOHNSON

### Named Minister of Health and Public Welfare



Dr. George Johnson

Dr. George Johnson of Gimli, elected Progressive Conservative member of the Manitoba Legislature for the constituency of Gimli in the Provincial election last June, was appointed Minister of Health and Public Welfare by Hon. Duff Roblin, who, upon heading the largest group in the legislature after the election, was asked by the Lieutenant Governor to form a government of the province.

Dr. George Johnson is the second Icelandic Canadian to be a member of a Manitoba government. First was Hon. Thomas H. Johnson, Attorney-

General in the Norris government, appointed in 1915.

Dr. Johnson is well described by staff writer Dick Bower in a series of articles entitled "Meet The New Cabinet", appearing in July editions of the Winnipeg Free Press. Headed "Newcomer To Politics Has 'Some Definite Ideas'" Mr. Bower tells about Dr. Johnson in these words:

Dr. George Johnson, a six-foot 205 pound ex-naval officer, is Manitoba's new minister of health and public welfare.

All four of Dr. Johnson's grand-par-

ents were Icelandic pioneers of Manitoba. He was born in Winnipeg 37 years ago, attended city schools and took his B.Sc degree at Manitoba university before joining the Royal Canadian navy during the Second World War.

Specializing in navigation, Dr. Johnson served in corvettes and frigates on the North Atlantic run during the whole war except for one short break on the tough Murmansk route. "We didn't go all the way to Russia," he recalls, "we just escorted the convoy past the U-boat danger point off Norway."

On his discharge at the end of the war as a Lieutenant he went back to university to take his medical degree. After serving his internship in Winnipeg he went to Gimli where he has been a general practitioner ever since.

A quiet soft-spoken man, Dr. Johnson makes a pleasant conversationalist, but he says he must brush up on public speaking.

Although he is married (to the former Doris Blondal of Winnipeg, Man.) and has five children—Janis, 12; Jennifer, 11; Danny, 9; Jon, 5; and JoAnn, 2, — Dr. Johnson has never been able to spend the time he would like with his family. "My job in Gimli was a 24-hour-a-day job", he says, and he ruefully admits that his time may be even more taken up by his new job.

Almost a stranger to politics, the new minister says that he felt it was his duty to stand in the past election after many of his fisherman-patients begged him to do so. Unlike many of the other new cabinet members, Dr. Johnson has no long political history behind him, neither has he a long record of Conservative support. "I had no particular leanings either way," he

recalls. "But I think I really became a Conservative when John Diefenbaker became head of the party."

Nearest he ever came to politics was when he served as president of the Gimli Chamber of Commerce for two years. It was then that he became interested in the care of the aged and played a leading part in the setting up of the new Gimli Old Folks' Home.

Following the many requests from the Gimli area people for him to represent them in the provincial legislature, Premier Duff Roblin paid him a visit, which finally made up his mind for him.

A great personal friend of the Liberal candidate, Dr. Stein Thompson whom he fought against during the election, Dr. Johnson had this to say "Dr. Thompson is one of my closest friends and did a great deal for Manitoba. It is through him that the area north of Riverton was opened up."

He has little time for relaxation or sport, though he played hockey as a youngster. Better known in the sporting world was his father, the famous Manitoba lacrosse great "Moose" Johnson.

"He was a great Liberal too," Dr. Johnson says, "I don't know what he thinks now. . ."

The new minister is perfectly frank about the task that confronts him. "Naturally I'm frightened stiff—everything happened so fast . . ."

But the man who fought U-Boats from the heaving deck of a corvette is not likely to remain frightened for long: "This is a challenge and I'm here to do the job. I have some definite ideas about things that I hope to put through," he said. "You'll hear about them later. . ."—T.O.S.T.

# The Icelandic Fishery Limits

Mr. Grettir L. Johannsson, Icelandic Consul in Winnipeg, has kindly made available to The Icelandic Canadian the following news release from the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the change of the fishery limits, as announced by the Government of Iceland. Mr. Johannsson pointed out in his letter enclosing the release that "Canada proposed a similar motion at the recent International Conference on the Law of the Sea, at Geneva's Palais des Nations". The readers of this magazine will, we are sure, feel much obliged to the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs and to Consul Johannsson for the release. It was forwarded to us in July and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since that time, but it is felt that the release should be published in order that the reader may have before him the ground upon which the Icelandic government based its decision to extend the territorial waters to 12 miles.

## Background Information

Some time ago the Icelandic Government announced that the present Icelandic fishery limits would be extended from 4 to 12 miles and that the new limits would become effective on Sept. 1st. This decision has given rise to extensive discussions in various quarters, where this matter has met with little or no understanding and even, at times, with outright animosity. In particular, efforts have been made to give the impression that unilateral steps taken by the Icelandic Government in this field would be unlawful and that the only proper solution would be to negotiate an agreement concerning the problems involved. In other words, it is asserted not only that the negotiations procedure would be preferable to unilateral action, but that the latter would be illegal. The matter is not quite as simple as that.

The Icelandic case will now be briefly described and perhaps the issues involved will thus be clarified.

- 1) The coastal fisheries are vital to the Icelandic people and form the very basis for the structure of their entire economy.

It is a well known fact that Iceland is a barren country. No mineral resources or forests exist in the country and agriculture is limited to sheep-

raising and dairy farming and the products are barely sufficient for local consumption. Consequently, most of the necessities of life have to be imported and financed through the exports, 97% of which consists of fisheries products. Indeed, it is as if Nature had intended to compensate for the barrenness of the country itself by surrounding it with rich fishing grounds. Iceland is situated on a platform or continental shelf, whose outlines follow those of the coast itself and which provides ideal conditions for spawning areas and nursery grounds, thus ensuring, if overfishing is prevented, a continuous supply of important foodfishes.

The coastal fishing grounds have always been the foundation of Iceland's economy and it can be said, without any hesitation, that without them the country would not be habitable. Therefore, there is no doubt that if the survival of the Icelandic people is to be secured, it is of fundamental importance to conserve the fishstocks in Icelandic waters.

- 2) The fishstocks in Icelandic waters were for a long time overfished and the development some years ago was leading to rapidly approaching ruin.

This evil development became quite clear during the period between the

two World Wars, when the catch per unit of effort decreased year after year. To take an example, the daily yield of haddock in 1919 was a little over 21 cwts. and in 1937 the corresponding figure was 5 cwts. In 1922 the catch of haddock per 100 trawl hours was 243 cwts., and in 1937 only 71 cwts. Several other species suffered a similar fate. During the Second World War the fishing effort obviously was greatly diminished and the fish stocks recovered to an amazing extent. After the Second World War, the fishing effort was again greatly increased and, consequently, in the fifties the trend towards depletion was quite clear.

The Icelandic Government had participated in all international agreements dealing with the conservation of the living resources of the North Atlantic. Such cooperation, however, only afforded a partial remedy and it became the policy of the Icelandic Government to take the necessary measures to protect the Icelandic interests in the coastal areas. For this purpose the Continental Shelf Law was enacted in 1948 and in 1952 straight base lines were drawn around the country and the fishery limits were measured 4 miles from these base lines.

It is the consensus of opinion that these measures not only prevented a further decline of the fish stocks, but actually succeeded in reversing the development and starting an upward trend. Because of a great increase in the fishing effort, however, particularly by foreign trawlers, the upward trend has been slow and Icelandic experts in this field are convinced that improved techniques and increased capacity are well on their way, not only to nullify the anticipated increase in the fishstocks, but to start the

downward trend once more.

For this reason it has now become inevitable to take further measures in this field and that is the crux of the entire problem.

- 3) **The conservation problem.** Effective conservation measures are necessary to prevent overfishing and secure the maximum yield from the fish stocks on a permanent basis.

As already stated it has become inevitable to take further steps to prevent overfishing in Icelandic waters. It has been pointed out on several occasions that experts in this field are in agreement not only as to the objectives of conservation, but also as to the methods by which these objectives can be achieved. It seems reasonable to maintain that the necessary measures could be taken either on the national or the international level. As far as the actual high seas, i.e. the wide open oceans, are concerned, the international level is the only course available. But as far as the coastal areas are concerned, proper measures could theoretically speaking be taken with exactly the same effect on either level. Practice has clearly shown, however, that action at the international level in such a case has given extremely meager results, except in comparatively rare situations, where neighbouring countries (e.g. Canada and the United States) have been faced with common interests and taken joint action. In the case of Iceland it is quite clear that if the necessary steps had not been taken in 1952, the situation would now be very gloomy indeed.

- 4) **The utilization problem.** Even if necessary conservation measures are taken in the coastal areas the maximum sustainable yield may not be sufficient to satisfy the de-



mands of all those who are fishing in the area. In such a case the coastal population must have a priority in order to satisfy its own requirements. This is particularly clear in the case of Iceland, where the population is overwhelmingly dependent upon the coastal fisheries for its livelihood.

With the increased effort in Icelandic waters, particularly by the nationals of many foreign States, it has become increasingly evident that the maximum sustainable yield of the fishstocks in the area is not sufficient to satisfy the demands of all concerned. In such a case proper conservation principles, of course, necessitate a corresponding reduction in the fishing effort.

The question then arises whether that rule should be applied equally to all. If, for instance, a 25% reduction became necessary, would that mean that the Icelandic people should also apply that principle as far as its own fishermen are concerned? Here it must be kept in mind that such a reduction would, indeed, be of no negligible importance in the economy of the other countries concerned, but in the case of Iceland it would be a complete disaster.

From the economic and moral points of view, the tremendous difference cannot be disputed. From the legal point of view it has been argued back and forth that even if the priority of the Icelandic population is recognized, it does not follow that the matter cannot be regulated through an international agreement so that unilateral action at least could be avoided. This assertion brings the problem into the proper perspective. The problem at issue is not whether fishery limits should be established unilaterally or through negotiations. It is a fact that for cen-

turies every State in the world has exercised coastal jurisdiction over various interests—including fisheries. It is also a fact that beyond the limits of coastal jurisdiction, no State could exercise its authority over foreign vessels. In other words, two basic concepts exist side by side and neither can claim priority over the other. The question is to find the dividing line between the two and it can be said at once that most if not all States have themselves determined the extent of their coastal jurisdiction on a unilateral basis. How far they can legally go in that respect is another matter.

This problem has recently been thoroughly discussed at the Geneva Conference on the Law of the Sea and should be considered now in the light of what happened there.

##### 5) At the Geneva Conference on the Law of the Sea the limit of 12 miles for coastal jurisdiction enjoyed wide support.

The origin of the Geneva Conference is to be found in a proposal made by the Icelandic Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1949 to the effect that the International Law Commission be entrusted with the task of studying the Law of the Sea in all its aspects. This proposal was adopted and the Commission concluded its work on the subject in 1956 when its Report was submitted to the General Assembly. The Assembly then decided that the Geneva Conference should be convened in February, 1958. The Icelandic Delegation to the Assembly was opposed to this procedure in view of the fact that several years had already elapsed and a further delay was most undesirable. Because of the Assembly's decision, however, the Icelandic Government decided to postpone any further extension of the

Icelandic fishery limits pending the outcome of the Conference. At the same time the Government announced that the matter would be taken up for decision immediately after the conclusion of the Conference.

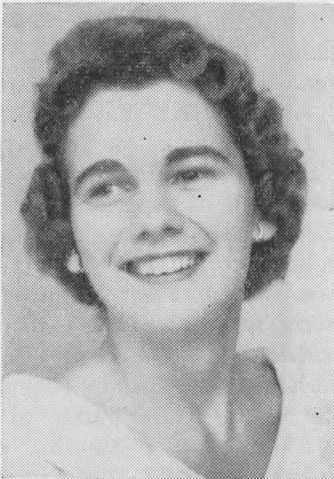
At the Geneva Conference various proposals were made regarding the extent of the territorial sea—3 miles, 6 miles, 12 miles etc. On the other hand many delegations favoured the view that a clear distinction should be made between the territorial sea, which should be comparatively restricted—e.g. 3 or 6 miles—and coastal jurisdiction over fisheries which would be more extensive, i.e. 12 miles. In any case it was quite clear that the distance of 12 miles enjoyed great support.

- 6) From the Icelandic point of view it is preferable to extend the fish-

ery limits unilaterally so long as the extension is not contrary to international law.

At the Geneva Conference many of the nations fishing in Icelandic waters were opposed to any extension of the territorial sea or fisheries jurisdiction beyond 3 to 6 miles. These nations now expect the Icelandic Government to negotiate away at least a part of what in its view is a legal right. In the evaluation of such proposals it should be kept in mind that the interests at stake are vital for the Icelandic people whereas that could hardly be maintained in the case of the other nations concerned. It is regrettable that this conflict of interests exists but since it does exist it must be dealt with as a fact.

## Heather Sigurdson Leads In Contests



Heather Sigurdson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Sigurdson of Winnipeg and granddaughter of the poet Guttormur J. Guttormsson of River-

ton, Man., has excelled this year in contests for beauty queens.

These contests are decided not only on physical beauty, but upon accomplishments and grace and charm as well.

In the contest for Miss Manitoba of the Red River Exhibition in Winnipeg Heather was selected from a field of twenty entrants. Coupled with the choice was a trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to take part in a similar contest there and to appear on radio and television.

In the Miss Canada contest at Hamilton, Ont., Heather Sigurdson placed second and won \$500 towards her studies at the University of Manitoba. She completed Grade XII last spring and plans to enter the University of Manitoba this fall.

# TOAST TO CANADA

Delivered by Dr. S. B. HELGASON, of the Department of Agriculture, University of Manitoba, at the Icelandic Celebration held in Gimli, Man. August 4th, 1958

This annual celebration is a day when we of Icelandic origin gather to meet old friends and relatives, to discuss many and varied topics of general or personal interest, or perhaps meet in friendly competition on the athletic field. But it is also a day on which we gather to celebrate the traditions and achievements of the past, to think on our place in the society in which we live, and perhaps to ponder a bit on what the future may hold for us.

Our Icelandic ethnic group is small in relation to the world population, and small in relation to the population of Canada. We feel proud, and I think justifiably so, of the eminence achieved by so many of this small group which has made Canada its home. Their achievements in the professions, in literature, in the arts and sciences, in sportsmanship and in many other fields of endeavour, are so well known to this country that they need no enumeration. Neither is there any need to emphasize the role of those who have laboured without public attention or acclaim, with perseverance and fortitude to build a young nation. We are perhaps at too close range to measure fully their achievements, but who can doubt their influence on the growth of the nation. We wonder at the forces that must have impelled them. Perhaps the spirit of the Vikings was strong in those who set out so willingly to build a new home in a new land. Here indeed, was an adventure worthy of their stamina and skill. Of course, love of adventure was not enough. Many generations of a rugged environment built a race with the will, the

strength, the endurance, and the dedication, to succeed in a country in the making. This was the material and physical equipment they had.

Many of the manners, customs, dress and foods we like to recall and retain, are cherished not only for their basic worth and attractiveness, but also because they are symbolic of the things we admired in our pioneers. But they never forgot, and we must never forget, the deep and meaningful traditions that were their moral and spiritual support. I doubt if their achievements would have been possible, and certainly their pride in them would have been hollow, without their deep sense of religion, their pride in a long history of representative government, their devotion to fine literature, their respect for learning, and their admiration for hard work and achievement in every endeavour. Their admirable sense of values was based on those traditions. They tried hard to pass them on to us. If we fail to maintain them, we fail our forefathers, we fail our own generation, and we fail future generations, for these are traditions worth retaining.

The social order of our age is a complex and often baffling one. This is scarcely surprising when we consider the few short years it has taken to vault us from the horse and buggy days into the atomic age. We can scarcely be blamed for feeling like a housewife who has been faced with nothing more complex than a wood-burning stove and is suddenly called upon to cook a meal on one of these modern contrivances with a control panel which rivals that of an aeroplane. We

are constantly faced with monsters of our own making which threaten to destroy us unless we master them.

Knowledge and wisdom are required in abundance to cope with the complexities of modern living. Science is blamed for many of our ills as well as being credited with some of our achievements. In the area of biological science which is the basis of much of our research in agriculture, we are more and more impressed with the interdependence of the various branches of science. Few would consider these researches as having any possible harmful connotation, but even now the fields of atomic and radioactivity research are serving useful purposes in agricultural research. I mention these things only because it illustrates how one science can scarcely progress normally without parallel progress in others.

We hear a great deal these days about the lack of respect, let alone admiration, for learning. While the term "egg-head" in reference to men of learning has not gained currency in Canada, the viewpoint it implies is none-the-less present in our national thinking.

Admiration for physical prowess and disdain for mental accomplishment are characteristics of youth, which, properly guided, change with maturity. It is to be hoped that this also applies to youthful nations. If so, it is essential that the necessary guidance be provided as soon as possible. Educators and other thinking people everywhere in the free world are concerned about the lack of interest and desire

for improved educational standards and opportunities. Our forefathers held a belief that greater knowledge and wisdom were the keys to success. What has happened to that belief? This is surely one of the traditions worth maintaining.

Canada was a land of promise to our pioneers. They saw abundance in her lands and her forests and her waters. They saw in her a new home and a new life and the promise of greatness to come. Canada is still a land of promise, for her wealth of resources has barely been touched. Her future greatness will depend very much on how wisely we and our descendants use this great potential wealth.

What of those traditions which our parents and grandparents cherished? Perhaps we have paid too much attention to the physical symbols of our heritage, forgetting the more enduring values they tried to pass on to us. In this age of opportunity and challenge we have a great responsibility. Could we but pass on to the growing generation within our sphere, some of the love of our forefathers for learning, some of their admiration for achievement brought of hard work, some of their dedication to religious justice and ethics, that would be a great achievement. If, in addition, we provide moral inspiration and desire, we could provide some of the physical means to make the best of their inherited abilities, then we can be sure we would be doing one of the things our forefathers would have wanted to uphold the desires of the ancestors, to build a better and ever greater Canada.

An Icelandic anthropologist, **Jens Pálsson** from Reykjavik, paid a brief visit to Winnipeg in August. He has for the past three years been pursuing studies at the University of California

and next year will continue his studies at Harvard University. He paid a visit also to Betel, Senior Citizens' Home at Gimli while on his brief Manitoba tour.



## ON READING

The following is an extract from the remarks of Rev. Sveinbjörn S. Ólafsson of South St. Paul, Minnesota, at the funeral of the late Kristinn Peterson of Oak Point, Man. In those remarks there is a lesson for everybody, particularly at the present time when most reading is haphazard, a mere skimming over of headlines, a fleeting search for the outlines of the plot in mediocre fiction. Here Rev. Ólafsson has given an excellent example of what it was that enabled so many of the pioneers to become truly educated even though their formal schooling was most meagre and in some cases none at all.

Kristinn Peterson was the most widely read man I have known. If it is possible for a man to be self-educated, he was that man. He could say with Abraham Lincoln, "What I want to know is in my own books". He was not only blessed with an insatiable desire to read and to know, but he was also blessed with a remarkable retentive memory and an analytical mind. He was not through with a book until he had mastered its contents, and once having done so, it was his forever. Books to him were worlds to conquer. He conquered one world after another. It was rarely that he could mention a book that he had not read. Worthless books he could not read. I once asked him to read a pamphlet of some one hundred pages and offered to pay him well for the trouble. He said, "That should be easy." Having read two or three pages, he gave it up as not worth reading.

While he read every good book that came within his reach, yet his reading was not all hit and miss. He had a system all his own. He mapped out

courses for himself. During a winter he would read extensively in one specific field, the best in print in that field. When he felt that he had covered the subject, he then had a thorough knowledge of it, knew conclusions held by its most eminent scholars, knew what its unsolved problems were, and how leading men differed on these problems.

The courses I personally knew that he had thus studied were: astronomy, mathematics, chemistry, botany, physics, Shakespeare, and fiction. There may have been others, but these I can vouch for. In 1915 or 16, he took a correspondence course in mathematics. Fiction was really his field. He wrote several short stories, some of which have been published, but stored in his fertile brain, were many more. They have perished with him.

It is surprising that any of his work was ever published. I say this because he found writing laborious. He had no patience to re-write and polish a story several times over, as even the best of writers must do. He jotted down ideas as they came to his mind, then, when a free moment came, he wrote these out in full. This constituted his finished work. One wonders what quality work could have come from his pen, if he had painstakingly scrutinized, re-written, and polished it.

Rev. Ólafsson added the following footnote to the letter enclosing the thoughts he had expressed at the funeral.

Kristinn Peterson was born at Nedri Hvestu í Selardalssokn í Bardastrandarsýslu . . . His parents were Petur Bjornsson (Captain) and Jonina Kristjansdottir. Kristinn came to Canada

in 1907. He lived in Winnipeg from that time until the last six years when he lived in Oak Point, Manitoba. He is survived by his wife, Petrína Regina (Ólafsson), one son, Hallgrímur, a lawyer in Ottawa, and one grandson, Arthur. Two sisters have preceded him in death. Kristinn died March 30 and was buried April 2, the Reverend Philip M. Petursson, officiating.

One of Kristinn Peterson's expositions centering upon a true story, was selected for the book "Vestan um haf", published in 1930 in conjunction with

the millennial celebration in Iceland commemorating the thousandth anniversary of the founding of Althing, the Icelandic parliament. This volume is a collection of the best in Icelandic poetry and prose by Icelanders of the West. The article by Kristinn Peterson is entitled: "Það fennir í spor". "When snow drifts into the footprints." The Icelandic Canadian hopes that Ólafsson or someone else will translate this beautifully written experience of life so that it can be published in a future issue.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Concerning a Proposed Biographical Dictionary

Arni Bjarnarson, book publisher of Akureyri in Iceland, is at present in the West for the purpose of making arrangements for obtaining the names, with brief biographical sketches, of men and women in America of Icelandic descent. From the information obtained a Biographical Dictionary is to be published, the first volume of which will include about 1000 sketches. Volumes will be added from time to time as more information is obtained and a wider interest shown.

In order to obtain the correct information in a standardized form, a list of questions has been prepared, which accompanies this announcement.

The publication of the proposed Biographical Dictionary of people who migrated to America from Iceland and their descendants will serve many purposes, but for the moment, only a few, perhaps the chief ones, need be mentioned.

From time immemorial the Icelandic people have waged a struggle—at times for their freedom and at times for their

very existence. Being so few in numbers the struggle has in a very special way been a struggle by individuals by families and family groups. For that reason the Icelandic people have at all times shown keen interest in genealogy, and that interest still persists. The immigrants to America brought this special trait with them and in spite of a different outlook by the Americans among whom they mingled it has not disappeared. On the other hand, as immigrants pass away, this special trait will diminish unless reinforced in some way.

Up to the present time memory and correspondence have kept people in Iceland interested in those who have migrated and their descendants. Memory alone and occasional correspondence are not sufficient. A permanent record is required and, it is hoped, the Biographical Dictionary will fill the need.

Furthermore, in the material already supplied, will be found a record of the achievements of those who

Iceland and their kin, now scattered all over North America. Those achievements will be a source of pride on both sides of the Atlantic and will strengthen the bonds that bind us together.

In the future these volumes of biographical sketches will be of inestimable value alike to the historians of America and Iceland, to the descendants of the people whose names are recorded, and to the nation back in Iceland which, so small in numbers, sorely missed those who left, but will feel compensated in what the record will show has been accomplished in America.

It obviously is impossible to personally contact all those who should be included, hence the request is sincerely made that people who are willing to be included in this biographical record fill in the questionnaires and forward them to our representative in Winnipeg, David Bjornsson, 763 Banning St., Winnipeg 3.

To help defray the cost of publication of this biographical work, people who send in sketches are expected to buy the volume in which they appear. Photographs are requested of all who send in the questionnaires and a photograph of the wife may be included. The price per volume is \$12.00 and \$14.00 if a photograph of the wife is included.

The subscription price must be forwarded with the biographical sketch and photograph or photographs. The amounts so received will be put on deposit in a Chartered Bank in a special trust account in the name of The Icelandic National League and kept there until each volume has been published and delivered.

Any further information will be supplied by David Bjornsson. Reports of the progress of the undertaking will appear from time to time in the Ice-

landic papers, Heimskringla and Logberg and in the Icelandic Canadian.

Submitted on behalf of Arni Bjarnarson and those associated with him in this project.

Here follows the list of questions to be answered:

Full name and address. (If anglicized give both names).

2. Date and year of birth.

3. Place of birth.

4. Parents, their callings. Date and year of birth. Date and year of death. Principal places of residence.

5. Grandfathers and grandmothers,—their occupations and places of residence.

6. Education, when, where attended school, and higher places of learning.

7. Present or former occupations. (If holding an official or professional position when appointed and where.

8. Positions of trust, public and community service.

9. Places of residence.

10. Honors, awards, recognitions.

11. Spouse. (Name, date and year of birth; if deceased, date and year of death.)

12. Date and year of marriage.

13. Parents of spouse. (Name, date and year of death; occupations and places of residence.)

14. If more than one marriage, give corresponding details.

15. Children. (Names, date and year of birth, principal occupations and places of residence.)

16. If born in Iceland, when migrated to America, reason for emigrating, accompanied by whom, on what ship.

17. Ever travelled to Iceland? When?

18. Literary works.

19. Where else recorded?

20. Important biographical data and events.

Signature.

## Huge Development Project Launched By Magnus Paulson



**Magnus Paulson**

Canada's largest suburban development project has been successfully launched by Magnus Paulson of Toronto. It consists of about five thousand acres.

This combination of the dreamer and the man of dynamic drive is a product of Winnipeg and in a way the product of a part of Iceland transplanted in Winnipeg, for he retains an affection for the land of his forebears and the heritage handed down by them. He is the son of Fred Bjarnason of Winnipeg and his first wife Helga, whose sister Gudny and her late husband Magnus Paulson adopted Magnus in his infancy.

Fred Bjarnason is a born salesman, one of the rather rare type, who limit their powers of salesmanship to that which is primarily of advantage to the customer. These qualities Magnus has inherited in rich measure and through training and experience has added to them so that now he possesses the qual-

ities of a top rate public relations officer.

The following appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, one of Toronto's largest dailies, on May 17, last. It is both a recognition of the enormousness of the undertaking and a tribute to the man who conceived the idea and made it a reality.

### SELLING TORONTO

#### Big Assembly Task by Toronto Broker

Magnus Paulson, a husky energetic man of ideas, was puttering about a vast acreage of farm land near Crookville one day with a land expert looking over the site of a 1,000 acre suburban development.

While walking, he thought: If 1,000 acres can be developed properly, why not two? If two, why not five?

Which is one of the reasons that Bramalea, instead of a small residential sub-division, is planned now as Canada's biggest development of its kind.

As a Toronto real estate broker, Magnus Paulson has acted for some of the city's biggest concerns. The Bramalea project was his biggest land assembly task, involving transactions with individual farmers. This assembly, instead of a piecemeal effort, was conducted in open fashion, so that each farmer owner was not unaware of selling prices around him. Most of this assembly was the Toronto man's work.

Mr. Paulson, whose Icelandic Grandfather founded a private school in Winnipeg, believes Canada's biggest economic asset is its population increase. "It takes a little nerve, a lot of capital, and much foresight," he says.

"but the opportunity is here for a lot of expansion."

The University of Manitoba graduate worked for 11 years in a Toronto Investment office before turning to real estate in 1947. He has a wife, two sons and two daughters at home.

In addition to having acted on service and business clubs, he has undertaken to help out in City Charity campaigns. "It's actually the duty on the part of someone who is a better salesman to take part. After all, he says

"the campaigns don't go over the top by themselves."

Coupled with the congratulations of the Icelandic Canadian is the hope that Magnus Paulson may find time to devote some of his qualities for public relations service to the diffusion of knowledge of the potential value of the best in the Icelandic heritage as an ingredient in the pattern of democratic citizenship that is being moulded here in Canada. —W.J.L.

## THE HUMOR OF K. N.

A fixed policy of The Icelandic Canadian has been to publish translations of choice Icelandic poetry, both the original and a translation. Most of the poems have been of a serious type, selected because of depth of thought or beauty in expression. The Icelandic people have their humorists and in the front rank, not only in America but in Iceland, we must place Kristján Niels Júlíus, commonly known as K. N. The translator, Bogi Bjarnason is a retired newspaper editor, now residing in Cultus, B. C. He was editor of The Treherne Times of Treherne, Man., for a number of years. A translation by Bogi of a short story appears in this issue. We hope to publish some of his original writings in the near future.

### AT A FUNERAL

Translated by Bogi Bjarnason

I feel content that you would grin  
with me  
Could you but witness what I hear  
and see.

For you were not accustomed—  
not your fate —  
To be thus borne along by friends,  
in state.

But death has changed your status  
so that now  
Your friends assemble in your honor,  
bow  
Their heads in faith, in grief, humility,  
And all unite in speaking well of thee.

### VIÐ ÚTFÖRINA

Eftir K. N. JÚLÍUS

Eg held þú myndir hlægja dátt með  
mér  
að horfa á það, sem fyrir augun ber.  
Þú hafðir ekki vanist við það hér  
að vinir bæru þig á höndum sér.

En dauðinn hefur högum þínum breytt  
og hugi margra vina til þín leitt;  
í trú og auðmýkt allir hneigja sig,  
og enginn talar nema vel um þig.



# Iceland Ably Represented At Minnesota Centennial

by BJORN BJORNSSON of Minneapolis

Culture transcends language and the cultural heritage of Iceland can survive in the western hemisphere among people of Icelandic origin although the Icelandic language may eventually disappear in these parts. This was one of the points made by the Hon. Thor Thors, Iceland's Ambassador to the United States and Canada, in a speech before an Icelandic group in Minnesota during the celebration of that state's centennial May 8-11.

Ambassador and Mrs. Thors were Iceland's official representatives at Minnesota's 100th birthday anniversary celebration. They were accompanied by Stefan Hilmarsson, first secretary of the Icelandic Embassy in Washington. Prime Minister and Mrs. Hermann Jonasson had been invited to attend the centennial festivities and had originally planned to attend but at the last moment were unable to be present because of the press of circumstances.

As is his wont, Ambassador Thors did an outstanding job of representing Iceland. Official guests from nearly a score of countries came to pay their respects to Minnesota's first hundred years. Because of the large Scandinavian population in the state, particular attention was paid to the representatives of the Scandinavian countries who included royal guests from Norway and Sweden as well as the Prime Ministers of Denmark and Finland.

The busy week-end of centennial activities began with the arrival of the visiting Scandinavian dignitaries

Thursday noon by a chartered flight from New York. Representatives of each of the Scandinavian countries were interviewed by radio and television reporters at the airport and later in the afternoon gave press interviews.

That evening the Scandinavian delegations were guests at the centennial banquet which was also attended by all Minnesota state officials. Mr. Thors distinguished himself with his eloquent and outstanding speech in which he emphasized the importance of the individual, especially among Icelanders. The departure of Icelandic migrants to the western world was a blow to Iceland, he said, because there are so few Icelanders and for this reason every individual means a great deal to this little nation. Mr. Thors expressed Iceland's pride in the accomplishments of the Icelanders who migrated to Minnesota and to other parts of the western hemisphere. He praised them for the contributions they have made to the development of their adopted land.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Thors presented a photostatic copy of the Flateyjarbók as a gift from Iceland to the state of Minnesota. This collection of early Icelandic manuscripts was a singularly appropriate gift, providing as it does a fine example of Iceland's ancient literary heritage.

The beautiful and charming Mrs. Thors appeared at this banquet dressed in a "skautbúning", the Icelandic traditional costume worn by women on festive occasions. A hush fell over the audience of some 1,200 people as Mrs. Thors walked to her place at the head

table and all eyes were fastened on her and her distinctive costume.

On the following day Ambassador and Mrs. Thors, Stefan Hilmarsson and others traveled to Minneota, Minn., by air. Minneota is the home of the state's only Icelandic settlement. At one time four Icelandic churches were served by a pastor located in Minneota and an Icelandic language newspaper was published there. Icelanders in the Minneota community gathered at St. Paul's Lutheran church where a noon banquet honored the official representatives of Iceland. State Senator Josef Josefson introduced all of the honor guests at the head table. Ambassador Thors spoke both in Icelandic and English before this gathering. He praised the people of the Minneota community for their efforts in maintaining the Icelandic language and preserving the culture of the old country.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Beck of Grand Forks, N.Dak., were among the honor guests present, and Dr. Beck responded to his introduction with one of his typically eloquent and fervent speeches, bringing greetings to the Minneota gathering from the Icelandic National League of which he is president. Minnesota State Treasurer Valdimar Bjornson made a recording in Icelandic for Iceland's state radio which was represented there by Gunnar Eyjolfsson from Reykjavik. Mr. Bjornson told the history of the Minneota Icelandic community and interviewed a number of people present.

After an informal reception outdoors the group returned to Minneapolis where members of the Scandinavian delegation were honored at a convocation at the University of Minnesota in the evening. The official representative from each of the countries was presented a scroll on behalf

of the University, the presentation being made by a faculty member who could trace his origin to the country from which each of the representatives came. Prof. Skuli Rutford, director of the University's Agricultural Extension Service, who has also spent several months as an agricultural adviser in Iceland, presented the University's scroll to Ambassador Thors.

Saturday evening the Hekla Club, a group of Twin Cities Icelandic women, staged their annual "samkoma" with Ambassador and Mrs. Thors as honor guests. As Miss Christine Hallgrimson, president of the Hekla Club, so aptly put it, this was "the samkoma of the century". It was held at the Walker Art Center which is under the direction of H. H. Arnason who is also head of the University of Minnesota's Art Department. Mr. Arnason is a native of Winnipeg and a man of international reputation in art circles.

Ambassador Thors again spoke both in Icelandic and English in addressing the samkoma. He talked about the changes that have taken place in Iceland since the departure of the group that settled in Minnesota more than 80 years ago. He outlined the hardships that Iceland faced at that time following volcanic eruptions and the attendant hard times that beset the little nation. Mr. Thors stressed that Iceland today is a completely different country. Although still not rich in natural resources the nation has achieved a considerable degree of prosperity today and all of the conveniences of modern civilization are commonplace throughout the country. Iceland's strategic location midway between Washington and Moscow has forced Iceland to take its place in the community of nations where it plays a vital role.

Miss Christine Gunlaugson, well

known western Icelandic opera singer and native of Minnesota, sang several selections including some Icelandic songs. Three Icelandic consuls were present at the *samkoma*, each of whom made brief talks. Dr. Richard Beck, Iceland's consul in North Dakota, addressed the gathering and brought greetings from the Icelandic National league. Grettir L. Johannson, consul for Iceland and Denmark in Winnipeg, extended greetings from Canadian Icelanders. Bjorn Bjornson, Iceland's consul in Minneapolis, acted as master of ceremonies.

The final day of centennial festivities was Sunday when Secretary of State John Foster Dulles made a major address before a huge crowd at the

University of Minnesota stadium. Ambassador Thors was among those presented on this occasion and extended official greetings from Iceland to the state of Minnesota. In the evening Danish visiting dignitaries were guests of honor at an entertainment in St. Paul staged by the Festival of Nations, Vancouver organization of which Valdimir Bjornson is president. Songs, dances and pageants were presented by representatives of a score of countries.

Ambassador and Mrs. Thors, Stefania Hilmarsson, and other members of the Scandinavian delegation left early Monday morning for Washington, D.C., where all were guests at a White House lunch.

## ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN AT GIMLI

The annual celebration of *Íslingadagurinn* at Gimli, held on August 4th last, was not as well attended this year as usual on account of the threatening weather all morning which burst into heavy rain before noon with the result that all the sports events had to be cancelled. The rain continued until after two in the afternoon and for a while it looked as if the formal programme would have to be cancelled or else carried on in the pavilion. But shortly after two it began to clear up and about 3 o'clock the sun broke out as if to welcome the *Fjallkona*, Mrs. Olavia Finnbogason and her attendants, the Misses Pearl Johnson and Karla Bardal, as they entered the park, and to the music of the Gimli Airport R.C.A.F. band, gracefully marched to the specially prepared platform, which was backed by artistically painted large scenic pictures of her homeland.

The customary parade in the morn-

ing had been marred by rain but it was more than compensated for by the two "Vikings", Valdi and Johann Arnason, from the prize winning float of Arnason Bros, who walked through the gathered crowd in the afternoon and gave all a most realistic live picture of the Vikings of old. They proved to be one of the features of the day.

When the Maid of the Mountains representing the Spirit of Iceland, had taken her seat on the platform the Winnipeg Scandinavian Male Voice Choir sang O, Canada, and Ó, Guds vors lands. The programme chairman Eric Stefanson, M.P. formally opened the celebration and then the *Fjallkona* delivered an address in Icelandic to "her children", the descendants of the pioneers, who had left the shores of Iceland three generations ago. A picture of the originals who came to Canada when very young, occupied a special place on the platform. Soon that sacred

place of honor will be empty.

Greetings were brought by the newly elected Premier of Manitoba, Hon. Duff Roblin, Mayor Barney Egilson of Gimli, Consul Grettir L. Johannsson, and Rev. Philip M. Petursson, Vice-president of the Icelandic National League.

A toast to Iceland was delivered by Steindór Steindórsson, head of the High School in Akureyri, Iceland. He traced the story of the Icelandic people in their struggles against the elements, in their determination to preserve their heritage of language and of poetry and sagas, and in their ultimate victory over what at times seemed overwhelming odds.

S. B. Helgason, Ph.D. proposed the toast to Canada. His speech appears

elsewhere in this issue.

A local poet, Larus B. Nordal, rendered a poem in Icelandic composed by himself for the occasion which he entitled "Minni Íslands". Music was supplied by the Winnipeg Scandinavian Male Voice Choir and the Gimli Station R.C.A.F. band.

After the formal programme, the Maid of the Mountain placed a wreath at the foot of the cairn, erected in memory of the pioneers. In the evening Miss Heather Sigurdson and the five Johnson girls, from Arborg, Man., four sisters and a cousin, sang in between community singing, led by Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, assisted by Mrs. Sigmar. The days festivities closed with a dance in the pavilion.

## THE COVER VERSE

The Cover Verses are the third and the last in a poem of ten verses composed by Jon Olafson and translated by Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

Jón Ólafsson (1850-1916) was born in Austurlandi, the east part of Iceland. His formal education did not extend beyond the Grammar School of Iceland but through extensive reading he mastered the Icelandic language and the art of writing. This, coupled with innate intellectual powers extending over a wide field, enabled him to write soft and appealing lyric poems and at the same time indulge in stinging diatribes in the field of politics. The record shows that on two occasions he had to leave Iceland because of his outspoken criticism of the political order of the day. Some of the years "in exile" were spent in America, mostly in Winnipeg. His chosen calling was journalism in which he engaged

both in Iceland and abroad. He was editor of *Heimskringla* for a few years, during which some sharp exchanges took place between him and his political enemy, Einar Hjörleifsson, the editor of *Logberg*.

The translator is Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the world famous Arctic explorer, who does not need an introduction. Some people may find it difficult to understand that a man, whose utterances at times were obvious libel, should show such depth of kindly sympathetic feeling in his poetry, or that a man, who by personal experience extending over years, demonstrated that the human being can live on the masses of ice fields of the polar regions, should select such poetry to translate or even should read or write choice literature.

The translation and the original follow.

## KÓNGSRÍKIÐ MITT

Eftir Jón Ólafsson

Dregur upp skýflóka' og dimmir í geimi  
dapurt og kaldlegt er útlit í heimi.  
En eg a mér kóngsríki, fimbulvitt, fáð,  
fagurt og sólheiðríkt draumanna láð.

Seint kemur vorið og seint laugast eikur,  
seint grænkar þettað ár völlurinn bleikur;  
en eilíft er vor og sígrænt að sjá  
sólríku draumlandi fegurðar á.

Af fósturjörð hrakinn ég fæ ei að líta  
föðurland síþráð með tindana hvíta;  
en fósturland á ég mér andans í geim  
Íslandi fegra í draumanna heim.

Þó að í þrísund mig dómarinn dæmi  
og Danskurinn burtu frá ættjörð mig flæmi,  
hér á ég frístað; þeir hrakið ei fá  
himnesku draumanna landi mig frá.

Vinum og ættingjum frá hlaut ég flýja,  
framandi og einmana í landinu nýja;  
en andi minn dvelur þó einatt þeim hjá  
indælu draumlandi hugarins á.

Ýmsa þá kærustu' af ástvinum mínum  
ískalt nu grafarhúm felur mér sýnum;  
en nær sem ég vil fer ég samt þá að sjá  
sólheiðu draumlandi minningar á.

Fátækur veraldar er ég af auði;  
á ei til morguns af daglegu brauði.  
En hvað hirði' ég gullsins um glitrandi sand?  
gangmynt er kærleiki' um draumanna land!

Hvað eru konungar heims þessa', að kalla?  
Hásætið veltur þá minnst varir alla.  
Um konungdóm þeirra mig kærí' eg ei grand.—  
Kóngsríkið mitt það er draumanna land!

Og sárt þegar hugraunir hjartanu sviða  
og heimur mig grætir og þungt er að líða,  
kyssir mér tárin af brennheitri brá  
brofögur draumlandsins vonarsól þá.

Loks þegar endað ég lífsins hef daga,  
loks þegar orrnarnir hold þetta naga —  
bænheyr mig, drottinn, ég bið um að fá  
byggja með ástvinum draumland mitt þá!



## MY KINGDOM

Translated by Vilhjálmur Stefansson

The land is in gloom and the cloud-banks have risen  
To blot out the world from the field of my vision;  
But the June sun still sparkles on shimmering streams  
In a land fair and cloudless—my Kingdom of Dreams.

Spring is slow in its coming; the bare trees still shiver;  
Not for weeks will the dew on the young grasses quiver;  
But the spring is eternal, the white petal gleams  
With the dew of the morn, in the land of my dreams.

An exile, I pine for the heaven-blue fountains  
Of my island-home's snow-capped and green-bosomed mountain's;  
But a land even fairer than it you will see  
If you come over seas to my dreamland with me.

Though to prison the courts of our lords may consign me,  
Though the Danes may exile and their puppets malign me,  
I know an asylum where all men are free,  
And my cottage stands waiting in dreamland for me.

My exile left friends that I loved far behind me,  
And a stranger I am in the land Fate assigned me;  
But my spirit still dwells with the loved ones at home,  
In my dreams I am with them wherever I roam.

Some that I cherished the darkness has hidden  
Where even the entrance of love is forbidden;  
I cannot go to them, but still they are free  
To walk through the meadows of dreamland with me.

Riches I have not, but why should I sorrow  
Though poverty oft have no bread for the morrow?  
My way is not nearly so hard as it seems  
For fancy is gold in the land of my dreams.

What are the kings of the earth in their splendor?  
Their thrones toppled down on their vanishing grandeur.  
For their courts and their scepters I care not at all;  
In the kingdom of dreamland the thrones never fall.

In the dark night of sorrow, when heart-strings are breaking  
And no balm of this world soothes the pain and the aching,  
The soft dawn of dreamland may bring on the day  
And the sunshine of hope kiss the tear-drops away.

When my voyage is ended on life's tossing billow,  
When at last in the evening my head seeks the pillow,  
Then God, hear my prayer, for this it will be:  
"Let the friends that I love dwell in dreamland with me!"

## MISS GUÐRÚN Á. SÍMONAR



**Guðrún Á. Símonar**

as 'Rosalinde' in 'Die Fledermaus' at the National Theatre and Opera House in Reykjavík, Iceland.

It has now been definitely decided that Guðrún Á. Símonar will arrive in New York about the end of September and will reach Winnipeg about the twelfth of October.

The arrangements, tentatively made last summer with the CBC, will now be carried out. Miss Símonar will appear on the Distinguished Artists Programme which is a coast to coast production. The CBC have also definitely committed themselves to put Miss Símonar on a TV programme and she is most likely to be on the six o'clock Spotlight a few days before the Winnipeg performance takes place. The actual dates of these appearances have not yet been fixed but will be made known through the press.

The date of the main Winnipeg concert has already been settled. Miss Símonar will appear in the Playhouse Theatre on Wednesday the 5th of November. This concert will be under the joint auspices of Celebrity Concerts (Canada) Ltd., The Icelandic National League and the Canada-Icelandic Foundation. The price of admission to the places at which ticket coupons will be available and all other details will be made known through the daily press and the Icelandic weeklies.

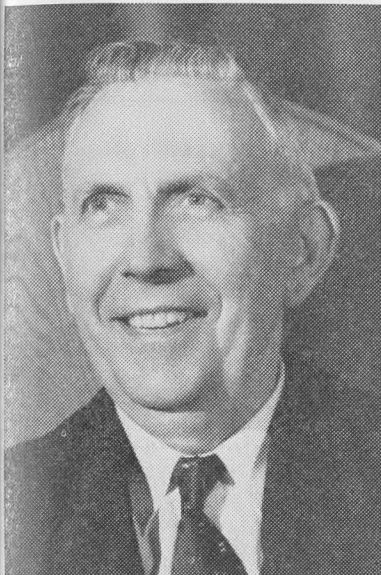
A schedule of concerts in the Icelandic districts of Manitoba and North Dakota will be announced later. It is expected that Miss Símonar will proceed to the West Coast and will appear in the principal cities and Icelandic districts there.

Miss Símonar is acknowledged to be the best singer in Iceland at the present time and one of the best sopranos in Europe. It was on the strength of the advance notices and the

playing of one or two records in Winnipeg that the CBC and Mr. A. K. Gee, the President and Managing Director of Celebrity Concerts Ltd., made their commitments.

The committee in charge are:  
 Consul Grettir L. Johannson  
 Dr. Richard Beck  
 Mrs. H. F. Danielson  
 Judge W. J. Lindal, (Chairman)

## REV. KOLBEINN SÆMUNDSSON



**REV. KOLBEINN SÆMUNDSSON**

On the occasion, this year, of his seventieth birthday Rev. Kolbeinn Sæmundsson of Seattle, Wash., asked to be relieved of his duties as pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Seattle, which he had served for about thirty years. His resignation was regretfully accepted but he was appointed Pastor Emeritus of the church he had served so well.

Kolbeinn Sæmundsson was born in Iceland and migrated to Canada soon after the turn of the century. For a while he worked as a printer for The Columbia Press in Winnipeg and then moved to Point Roberts on the West Coast where he farmed and was Postmaster. There he married Groa Thor-

steinson.

By this time Kolbeinn had felt the urge to offer his services to the Lutheran church, and in 1924 he moved with his family to Seattle and enrolled in the Pacific Theological Seminary. Three years later he was ordained in the first church he attended in America, the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. His first call was to the Hallgrims congregation in Ballard, now part of Seattle. A year later he was asked to serve the St. James congregation in Seattle as well, and for some years he was pastor of both churches and later on St. James church alone.

It can be truly said that Rev. Kolbeinn Sæmundsson is the person to whom the main credit goes for building the present St. James church and its congregation. When he arrived the congregation numbered only about twenty-five; in enlarging the congregation he placed special emphasis upon the Sunday School and within a short while it became, as it still is, one of the largest Sunday Schools in the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran church.

The increasing church membership demanded a larger church. The old church was torn down and a new one erected; more land was obtained and later a parsonage erected on the church grounds.

At the closing church service a testimonial scroll was presented to the retiring pastor in which he was notified of his appointment to the honor-

ary position of Pastor Emeritus of St. James church.

Kolbeinn Sæmundson is a literary man and through the years, even though he has served a non-Icelandic congregation, he has maintained a good command of the Icelandic language and frequently has translated choice Icelandic poetry into English.

Kolbeinn Sæmundsson lost his first wife in 1947; their youngest son is now training for the ministry. In 1953 he

married his present wife, Sara, a member of the St. James congregation. After a year of travel and rest the Reverend and Mrs. Sæmundsson will make their home in a house near St. James church which Kolbeinn is building.

Now that Kolbeinn has retired he will be expected that he devote a portion of his time to his Icelandic heritage and give expression to his thoughts in poetry and prose. —W.J.L.

## The Icелander And His Island

It is well that when opportunities present themselves, those who have the ability and training, should place before the Canadian people various facets of the structure we call the Icelandic heritage. It was refreshing to hear Miss Caroline Gunnarson, Women's Editor of the Free Press Weekly, in a talk given on the CBC programme "Prairie Talks" in July last.

In a somewhat breezy style she began:

"An Icелander is an Icелander. Let him go at that. He will admit his blood ties with the Norwegians, the Swedes, even the Danes. But he is none of these and he'll certainly tell you so.

"Let no one withhold from him the special credit he deserves for being an Icелander.

"Don't forget—his forebears were Norsemen, and they chose to become Icelanders for very special reasons—reasons that Scandinavia's older, bigger and wealthier nations sometimes failed to respect, but reasons that have made a nation of a few and scattered people on a rugged northern island, reasons that have helped shape the Icелander into the proud and peculiar individual that he is."

Later in her talk Miss Gunnarson

gives a priceless illustration of the peaceful and democratic way in which the Icelandic people have solved problems of vital import and fateful destiny.

"In the year 1000 Iceland changed religion in a civilized and orderly manner, because a half heathen Althing decreed that Christianity was the wish of the greater number of people. And they chose a respected worshipper of Odin and Thor to declare Althing's acceptance of the Christian faith.

"How is that for subtle diplomacy?

"'It seems well to me' he said, 'that men who over zealously oppose the new faith be not given their way. There is much good in both faiths. Let us then have one faith for all and one way of worship. For it is true that a rift in the law brings rift in the peace'."

The rule of law has from time to time been memorialized in almost sacred tradition by the Icелander. On this Caroline says:

"To this day, law, to the Icелander is not to be trifled with. When it no longer suits him, he sets out to change it, but he seldom breaks it."

This appropriate address to Canadians by the incoming President of The Icelandic Canadian Club, augurs well for the work of the club this coming season.



## The Canada Council Awards A Scholarship To An Applicant From Iceland

On July 9, 1958, The Canada Council wrote a letter to His Excellency, Thor Thors, Minister to Canada for Iceland, and forwarded a copy of the letter to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Canada-Iceland Foundation. In this letter Mr. E. Bussiere, who is in charge of "Non-resident Fellowships" granted by the Council, stated that he was pleased to inform His Excellency "that Mr. Gunnar Ragnarsson, Eskihlíð 10 A, Reykjavík, has been chosen as a winner of one of the first awards made by the Council". Mr. Bussiere went on to say that the awards were of a value of \$2,000, plus travel allowance to Canada and return, and were renewable.

It was, indeed, a great pleasure to the Canada-Iceland Foundation to hear that Iceland had been allotted one of the first awards. This speaks well for the merits of the applicants from Iceland especially when one bears in mind that applications, in some cases many, came from close to fifty countries. It is understood that forty non-resident awards were made.

The Canada-Iceland Foundation was particularly pleased and much encouraged by a letter received from His Excellency, Thor Thors, in which he gives credit to the Foundation and its associate organization in Iceland the "Ísland-Kanada Ráð", for their efforts in bringing about the allotment to Iceland of one of the first scholarships from The Canada Council.

In the Canada Council Regulations, released late in 1957, it was stated that applications for Non-resident Fellow-

ships must reach The Canada Council's office by February 1. In December last, application forms were obtained and sent by the Canada-Iceland Foundation to Consul-General Hallgrímur F. Hallgrímsson, C.B.E. chairman of the newly formed Ísland-Kanada Ráð, and he was asked to have the forms and supporting documents completed as soon as possible. He and his associates in the Ráð acted with great despatch. The applications, with supporting material, were forwarded to the Canada-Iceland Foundation in time to enable the chairman to send them, with some additional testimonials, to The Canada Council, to arrive there before the deadline set in the Regulations. It may be that some other countries did not act with equal despatch because the time limit for 1958-59 foreign awards was later extended to May 1, 1958.

It should be noted that applications for Fellowships from foreign countries must be cleared by the diplomatic representative of Canada in each respective country. As Canada's minister to Iceland, Honourable R. A. MacKay, resides in Oslo, arrangements were made, satisfactory to The Canada Council, that applications from Iceland be cleared through Consul-General Hallgrímsson in Reykjavík and sent direct to Canada.

It is hoped that at least one scholar will come from Iceland to Canada each year. But this must not be a one way traffic nor does it behoove us Canadians of Icelandic extraction to lean heavily upon the liberality of the Canadian people through The Canada



Council. It is the hope of the Canada-Iceland Foundation that it may be able to offer assistance to Canadian scholars and artists who desire to further their studies in Iceland as well as to participate in helping students and artists who seek to advance their training in Canada. Both are within the purposes and objects for which the Canada-Iceland Foundation was established.

A complete statement setting out the reasons for the formation of the Canada-Iceland Foundation, its pur-

poses and objects, and the present personnel of honorary members, officiating and charter members will, in the near future, appear in the weeklies, *Heimat skringla* and *Logberg*, and in *The Icelandic Canadian*, and copies will be sent to Mr. Hallgrímsson for distribution in Iceland in such manner as the Ísland-Kanada Ráð may decide.

Released on behalf of the Canada-Iceland Foundation September 20, 1958

**W. J. Lindal,**

Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Canada-Iceland Foundation

## SCANDINAVIAN NEW CANADIANS

The above is the title to an article in the September issue of *Liberty*\* written by its editor, Frank Rasky. This article is the fifth in a series on Canada's ethnic groups and the next article will be on the Hungarians.

It is indicative of a trend in Canadian thinking, always reflected in the press, that many newspapers and periodicals go to the trouble and expense of publishing articles on the ethnic groups in Canada. Every once in a while a person opens the weekly edition of an eastern paper such as *The Toronto Daily Star*, or even an apparently purely business paper such as *The Financial Post* only to discover an article on a national group or on a Canadian of non-British-French origin. One must presume that this is based upon an awakening to the fact

that these so called ethnic groups—Canadians of other than British or French descent—are playing an important role and in the future will play an even more important role in the building of this nation and in the moulding of characteristics and a type which may be said to be truly Canadian. These characteristics and the type they forge, which as yet are as the kernel of wheat in the dough stage, will in the course of time take definite form with discernable content and establish the Canadian pattern of democratic citizenship.

One may, indeed, let the mind wander beyond immediate horizon and ask the question: Who is then to say that this widening of outlook in Canada (and elsewhere) does not presage or does not arise with a similar widening of outlook at the headquarters of the organization upon which mankind bases its hope for permanent peace—the United Nations?

It is very interesting to the national groups which are the subject of these articles to hear what has most impress-

\* *Liberty*, styled "Canada's young family magazine", was established 36 years ago in Montreal and has offices in both Montreal and Toronto. Its circulation is about half a million. The President and Publisher is Jack Kent Cooke, and the General Manager Gordon Rungay. The editor is Frank Rasky, of Russian descent, who heads an editorial staff of ten. —ED.

ped the author and, in many cases, his agents, as they wandered about the centres or settlements of each particular national group and picked out special characteristics, whether exemplary virtues or amusing foibles. Viewed in that light the article by Frank Rasky is instructive.

The author struck oil in his search for an outstanding Scandinavian attitude of mind when he came across something for which he could not find a common English expression and called it "tenacious gumption."

"The Danes try to define this unique Scandinavian quality with the word 'Mod'. The Swedes call it 'Spanst'. To the Norwegians, it's 'mot'. And to the Icelanders, it's 'hugrekki'."

"But the word that best expresses this tenacious Scandinavian quality is the Finlander's indefinable 'sisu'. In English, 'sisu' might be loosely translated as "stick-to-it-iveness", 'intestinal fortitude' or simply 'guts'."

An Icelander will not find it hard to understand and perhaps will be pleased to note the following result of the search.

"Perhaps the one characteristic that links all the Scandinavians who have adventured to Canada is the spirit of rugged individualism."

A step was taken by the first settlers on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg which has no parallel in Canadian colonization history and reveals one of the outstanding qualities of the Icelandic mind. Icelanders will feel grateful to the author for bringing this unique adventure to the attention of the hundreds of thousands of readers of *Liberty*. The reference here is to the attempt made by the settlers who came to the district in 1875 to establish a form of democratic govern-

ment in a part of what was then the unorganized territory of Keewatin. In this venture there was no suggestion of disloyalty to governmental authority; the Icelandic settlers were simply determined that their thousand year old democratic process should prevail. Mr. Rasky says:

"Unquestionably, the most bizarre colony was the 'Republic of New Iceland' established on the bleak western rim of Lake Winnipeg, Man., in 1875 . . . .

"There the settlement started an absolutely unique system of self government. Elected representatives of their four districts—Willow Point, Arnes, Riverton and Hecla Island — met in stately parliament called 'Thingrad'."

The author has his humorous way of describing that time in the life of the immigrant when he still speaks his native tongue with greater ease than English or any other language. Speaking of his wife, Walle Larson of Winnipeg is reported to have said:

"When I get mad at her, I speak Norwegian, because the words come out faster."

The reaction of the immigrant who has been in Canada a number of years and then visits his fatherland is put thus by H. Ross Jensen of Montreal, as reported in the article:

"The disgruntled immigrants don't appreciate how well off they are in Canada until they get a taste of back home again."

The author mentions a few Icelanders by name—authors and editors. It is encouraging to note that he refers to *The Icelandic Canadian* as "an English-language cultural quarterly."

—W. J. L.

## IFJAILKONAN



MRS. OLAVIA FINNBOGASON

## *Address of the Maid of the Mountains*

*Mrs. Olavia Finnbogason, at Gimli, Monday August 4th 1958*

Fate seems to bring us various kinds of days: some long and tiring, others unforgettable because of the heartfelt associations they have for us.

To the latter belong the days here dedicated to me every year. A mother is gladdened by the devotion of her children. Such days also foster a feeling of unity among those present. Those responsible for them deserve thanks.

I am very pleased to address you on this historic spot to which my children came in the last decades of the nineteenth century, converting a wilderness into a garden. In those days adversity of many kinds faced me and it was not without a trace of anger that I saw my children leave, although their devotion to me could be seen by the fact that they called their new home NEW ICELAND. As the years have passed this anger has completely disappeared and I have seen that what I considered a loss was in fact a great gain. You have remained true to your Icelandic heritage and this is evident in the name of this spot GIMLI, which means a blessed spot, a place where good men dwell.

As the years passed another example of the love and devotion of my children was seen in the founding of BETEL which means God's house—a place where Icelanders might spend the last years of their life. It clearly attests to a spirit of Christian love and sacrifice, and the present generation has shown the same feelings as their fathers in rebuilding and extending Betel. I am deeply grateful for this, for what you do for my elderly children you do for me.

Times change and people also. I cannot claim your undivided devotion. Your allegiance is, of course, to your present homeland. The language spoken by your fathers is now unfamiliar to many of you. But the ideals and manly qualities of your fathers are not limited by citizenship or language. I only ask that you do not forget your origin or your cultural heritage, and that you remember me and preserve the finest qualities of the Icelandic people throughout the ages.

Let us trust God's words: each seed sown in charity carries the promise of heaven on earth. Each holy prayer can count on God's grace. Should we not banish fear and hatred, since aid and mercy are available to all in the faith which can gather together a thousand peoples in the service of truth, love and peace.

# The Withered Stalk

Author: FRÍÐJÓN STEFÁNSSON

Translator: BOGI BJARNASON

The alarm clock, which he always carried with him, stridently and insistently brought him out of the depth of slumber. It announced to him a new day, new tasks in this hour of grey dawn. As he came to and literally rolled out of bed and began dressing, he was aware that some of what he had imbibed the previous night was still with him.

The place, a room of an inn; the man, an undistinguished writer, a bird of passage in this city.

When he had finished shaving he delved into his bag for wrapping. Two blank pages out of a notebook served this purpose; on a third page he noted some of his scribbling, a stray thought he had intended to embody in a story. His brow creased as he read:

"... people on the street reminded him of blades of grass, sere and yellow; more aptly, of two snowflakes that wayward breezes had brought together, jostling in the upper air, shaping each other as they collided, then drifting into other concentrations and changing as they went, eventually finding themselves side-by-side in a snowdrift behind a ramshackle hut on a creek-bank, their original shapes changed, with different accretions of dust particles, but still essentially snowflakes."

He tore out the page and, crumpling it, threw it in the waste basket. In its present purview the statement was of no moment.

He stowed his shaver outfit in his bag, together with the alarm clock, a half-empty bottle of aquavit and an

anthology of poems. This was the story of his effects.

It was still early as he made his way down the stairs, where every step creaked. At the door he was met by a chilling and dust-laden wind.

A frowsily-clad woman, bareheaded, ambled down the walk ahead of him, obviously drunk, one hand holding the collar of her coat to cover her face. He lengthened his step to pass her, but she grabbed at his arm.

"Hi, old fellow! Aren't we friends?"

He saw, despite the coat collar, that one eye was blackened. Yet it struck him that he had seen this face before. He said:

"I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance", and attempted to make off.

She forestalled this by a grip on his arm, repeating her question, whether they were not friends. Her husky voice conveyed to him all that society could demn—bitterness, squalor, degradation.

"You are a real man; all real men are my friends."

"Go home and sleep it off."

"Home? I have no home."

An alcoholic, he thought, as he tried to disengage his arm.

"I have to get on; my time is my own."

She appeared to come to, determining not to lose him.

"I am now a homeless, battered woman; but there was a time that you chased after me."



"So?" (trying to recall where he had met her). "Well, goodbye."

"Listen!" she called after him; lend me enough for a bed, to bail me out of the ditch."

He turned to glance at her bloated face with its conspicuous "shiner", at her tattered raiment and down-at-heel footwear, and wondered where he had seen this person before. Surely he had seen her, known her, somewhere. Touched, he said to her:

"Very well, if you are broke and adrift, I'll see to it that you have a room for the day. You can occupy my room at the inn, since I am leaving. Come on."

For the space of a moment she hesitated, then appeared to collect her wits.

"I knew it! We are friends, and 'a friend in need is a friend in deed'. One has but to see you to know that you are a real man."

He strode ahead of her up the rickety stairway to his late room, noting that she made an effort to appear not drunk. His bed was unmade, and on the table were glasses and an empty bottle, residue of his night's carousal.

"Pray be seated" — indicating the settee. "Then tell me where and when I chased after you." His smile invited confidences.

"First loosen my tongue with a thimbleful of —," and there was a trace of dignity in the way she uttered the request.

He opened his bag and brought forth a bottle. For a brief moment the gleam in her good eye was intense, as if she had been made heir to a king's ransom. But the gleam was brief, for here was but a respite—maybe two glassfuls. It wouldn't go far. When next she looked at him, there was in her glance an accusation, that the supply was meagre.

"I thought you might be **that way**."

"I am." He poured two glasses.

"Skoll!"

"Skoll!"

"You said that I had chased after you?"

"Yes," she said, "that you did. Fourteen, fifteen years ago there was a young girl in a lilac-blue dress, at a dance hall far removed. The boys were eager to dance with her—maybe because she danced well, maybe for other reasons. Whatever the reason, it was fun. It was delightful. It was life."

She laughed; and the laugh was harsh and cold, bereft of mirth.

"I was that girl. And there was a swain from the northlands, small of stature, who danced with her whenever she would let him, and he was eager to escort her home. But she laughed at him because he was shy, and went off with the tall carpenter with the scarred forehead. That young swain was yourself.

"This girl no longer exists; only myself remains."

Again that cold, unpleasant laugh.

"But you—you remain. And you are a man."

He looked at her, and recollection of a dimly-lit dance hall came to his mind, the floor packed with gyrating humanity, and a corner where sat a fat, sweaty accordionist and a drummer. He himself was the short swain out of the northlands. His attention had been centered on the pretty, dark-haired girl, a cafe waitress. But other men had been more forward, and them she favored over him, having many to choose from. He had been anguished, and dreamt about her at night, but was too diffident to press his suit with sufficient ardor. — And now she faced him as they sat in his room at the inn.

She finished her drink.

"Have another?"

"What a silly question!"

He stood up to remove his coat, and for a moment he preened at the mirror. She spoke:

"I must be a sight. —My man, the damned brute!"

"Did he hit you?"

"That he did."

"Your man?" he said, not knowing whether she was married.

"He threw me out, even denying me time to collect my things."

"And the reason?"

"Reason! Jealousy, and just plain evil. He is a brute. Yet he takes up with other women whenever he has a mind to, and thinks nothing of it."

He offered her a cigarette. Smoking, she leaned back and remarked. "I must be a sight."

Politely he denied it, yet knowing that she must be aware of his estimation of her.

She looked at the unmade bed behind him where he stood.

"You're the fine one—upper class. I knew it the moment I clamped my eyes on you. I size men up very quickly."

"But occasionally you make mistakes," he sipped at his glass.

"No. I make no errors in that respect. I should like to drink with you all this day and the coming night."

He laughed.

"Now I must be off. And I think you should drink no more. Just go to sleep. The room is yours for the day."

"No," she said, "I shall not remain unless you are with me."

He scrutinized her, wondering that she did not realize how disgusting she must be in his sight.

"I am leaving on the scheduled. You go to sleep; quite probably have not slept this past night."

She pouted.

"If you go I go. I accept no fav

He emptied his glass and put bottle in his bag.

"O.K., and as you please. But I then call a taxi to take you home to your man, to make up disagreements?"

She made no reply, but looked the dregs in her glass. But when she looked up and saw that he was determined to go, her manner softened.

"Have you a few more drops for

He poured another finger in glass.

"I thought you were a man."

He stood up to go.

"Not that it matters very much, you said that we were friends; and a friend I advise you to go to sleep or else go back to your man and come to terms with him."

As he spoke she covered her face with her hands, her elbows resting on the table.

"What man?" she asked.

"Your man, of course."

"He is dead—died long ago. They are all dead, save only you."

For a brief moment an image of the pretty, dark-haired waitress she had dreamed about appeared to mind, then faded and was gone, and in its place was —

He pulled a bill from his wallet and laid it on the table. Silently he went his way down the stairs of the hotel which creaked at his every step.

Gaining the street he glanced at his watch, noting that his bus was to leave in just ten minutes.

## BOOK REVIEW

### TAKING ROOT IN CANADA

by Gus Romaniuk

Columbia Printers, Winnipeg

1954, pp. 283.

Reviewed by:

W. Kristjanson

"This is a story of a man and a country. A story of the pioneering in a new land, of the hardship, the miserable poverty, the sacrifice, the tragedy and the indomitable courage that lifted men above misfortune to hack and carve and grub from an unrelenting wilderness the precious heritage of freedom and unlimited opportunity", says the forward to Gus Romaniuk's *Taking Root in Canada*.

*Taking Root in Canada* is the autobiography of Gus Romaniuk, whose parents arrived from the Ukraine, with their family in 1912 and settled in the Ledwyn district, nine miles north of Riverton, Manitoba. The father had preceded the family and had built a log cabin, with bare, moss chinked walls, a ceiling of hay, and no floor. When the mother saw this she burst out weeping, but then she looked around, removed her coat and rolled up her sleeves, and started setting things in order. This is an example of the courage and determination with which the settlers of Ledwyn district set about changing their waterlogged bush and forest land to cultivated farm land.

The author's experiences in seeking seasonal and casual employment are typical of pioneering days: work in a logging camp, cutting cordwood and hauling it to Riverton by oxen, selling railway ties for the railway from Gimli to Riverton, fishing on Lake Winnipeg, and harvesting and threshing

in Saskatchewan, all this before setting up in business. It is a story of persistent effort, slowly won success, a severe setback in the depression years of the thirties, a story of physical and mental effort, of adjustment, of taking root and belonging in the larger community.

This is more than the story of a single individual and his family. It is a story typical of many a Manitoba community. The Ukrainian newcomers first did business with the Icelanders in Riverton, then presently some moved into town and became members of a changing and growing community. It is gratifying to read of the kindness and helpfulness shown by the earlier settlers to the newcomers, of another racial origin.

"The longer we lived in Riverton", says the author, "the more we grew to understand and appreciate the meaning of freedom and democracy; not only our community but throughout the section of Canada we know. Although immigration had created somewhat of a melting pot of races and creeds, the definiteness of our origin never set up social or economic barriers of any kind.

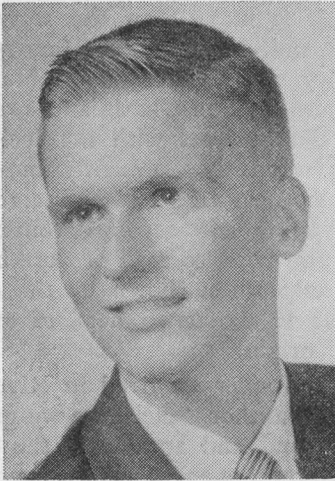
"We were Ukrainians. Riverton was predominantly Icelandic. Yet we were all Canadian; more than that, human beings—people living together and working together in goodwill."

Of special interest to the readers of the Icelandic Canadian Magazine will be the mention of several people of Icelandic origin. Sveinn Thorvaldson is mentioned as a prominent businessman in the larger community. The foreman of the logging camp, Oddleifson, patiently taught the greenhorns

how to wield an axe and fell trees. Mentioned are Steini Eliasson; Ingi Ingaldson; Oddur Olafson; S. V. Sigurdson, mayor of Riverton, and others. A splendid tribute is paid to the devoted service of Dr. S. O. Thompson, M.L.A.

**Taking Root in Canada** is a story told simply, directly, with zest and feeling and imagination. It is very readable and the author has a message. The book is well illustrated, by Gordon Dale of Minneapolis, and the general appearance is attractive.

## Ross Legrand Wins \$2,500 Scholarship



**Ross Legrand**, son of Gerald and Evelyn (nee Athelstan) Legrand of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, was awarded a general scholarship of \$2,500 applicable for use at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, after graduating from St. Louis Park Senior High School.

At St. Louis Park Senior High he was sports editor of the student newspaper, vice-president of the Minnesota High School Press Association, homecoming co-chairman, vice-president of the student council, president of the band and a member of the National Honor Society, the Varsity basketball team, the Canteen and the Latin Club.

He was awarded a first place in the state for a high school sports story, received the highest mark possible in

the state music contest on the French horn, and placed among the top ten per cent of high school seniors in the state in the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.

★

## HELGA BALDWINSON WINS FURTHER LAURELS

**Miss Helga Baldwinson**, who completed her studies at Manitoba Teachers' College last June, won the Viking Scholarship of \$50.00 awarded annually by The Viking Club of Manitoba to the best all-round student in the Province of Scandinavian birth or descent. On June 19, at the College convocation S. R. Rodvik, a past president of the club made the presentation.

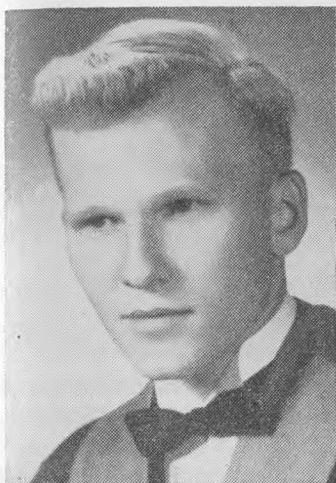
It has become almost a habit for Helga to receive honors for her excellence in both academic and music studies. See Icel. Canadian Summer 1950. Last January, when attending Manitoba Teachers' College she was one of two students selected from a study body of about six hundred to attend a conference in Edmonton of Western teachers' college students.

This year Miss Baldwinson expects to obtain her A.M.M. from the University of Manitoba for both piano and voice. In course of time she hopes to obtain her B.A. She is at present teaching in Assiniboine School, St. James, grade 5, and music in grade 7.

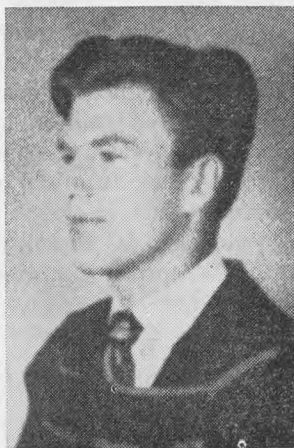


## IN THE NEWS

### TWO SONS OF TANTALLON PIONEERS UNIVERSITY GRADUATES



John Randolph Johnson



Raymond Wesley Johnson

Raymond Wesley and John Randolph, sons of Sigurdur and Thora (Asmundson) Johnson, formerly of Tantallon, Sask., and now of Vancouver, B. C., are both university graduates.

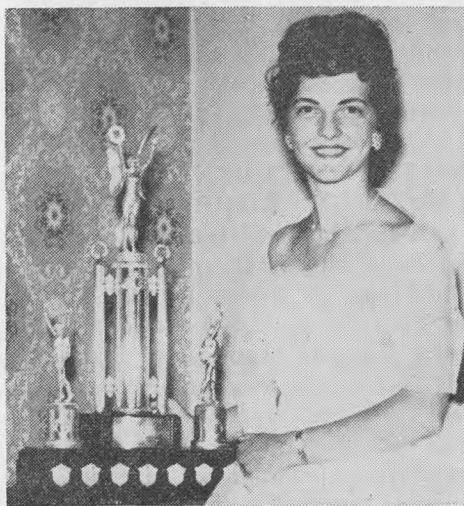
Raymond Wesley Johnson, who was

born in Prince Albert, Sask., March 18, 1931, received his public school and high school education in Wynyard, Sask. In 1953 he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of British Columbia. He resides in Vancouver.

John Randolph Johnson was born in Wynyard, December 20, 1933. He received his public schooling in Wynyard, completed his high school work in British Columbia, and last spring graduated in medicine from the St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Ont.

★

### LOIS JOHANNESSEN WINS HONORS



Lois Johannesson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johannesson, formerly of Wynyard, Sask., and now of North Surrey, B. C., on graduation from the North Surrey Collegiate last spring was awarded the MacMillan Club Citizenship trophy for her activities in school activities since grade nine. In grade 12 Lois was class president, editor-in-chief of the school annual, vice-



president of the student council, girls' sports aggregate winner and Mardi Gras Queen.

Lois was born in the Grandy district north of Wynyard, Sask., and attended the Grandy School. All her grandparents are residents of the Lake District (Vatnabygð) in Saskatchewan.

★

**Rosemary Johnson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Johnson, 735 Home St., Winnipeg, has been awarded a \$500 bursary by the Government of Manitoba. She has been an outstanding student at the Daniel MacIntyre Collegiate and on completing grade XI last spring secured the highest marks in her grade. Two years ago a six-page story by her appeared in the publication called "First Flowering", a selection of prose and poetry by the youth of Canada. Rosemary plans to attend the University of Manitoba and hopes to take Icelandic as soon as she is permitted to do so.

★

### **BRILLIANT STUDENT WINS \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

Last spring **David Daniel Kristmanson**, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kristmanson of Prince Rupert, B. C., was awarded a \$2,000 National Research Council Scholarship. Back in 1947 David won another \$2,000 scholarship, awarded by Imperial Oil Ltd.

He is a graduate in chemical engineering from the University of British Columbia and two years ago won an Athlone Scholarship and proceeded to London, England, where he has been pursuing post-graduate studies at Imperial College.

The term of the Athlone Scholarship expires in September of this year and Mr. Kristmanson will continue his studies in London on the Research Council Scholarship, leading to a Ph. D. degree.

### **GRADUATE IN LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY**



**Shirley Edna Thorsteinson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thorsteinson of Husavik, Man., graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Medical Laboratory Technology in March of this year.

At the spring banquet of the Manitoba branch of the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologists she was awarded the society pin for having attained the highest average marks in the Manitoba autumn examinations of 1957.

Miss Thorsteinson is presently employed at the Winnipeg Clinic.

★

### **PIANO RECITAL BY THORA ASGEIRSON DU BOIS**

Last July Thora Asgeirson du Bois held a piano recital in the city of Lindsborg, Kansas, where she is living with her husband Ronald du Bois, who is assistant professor of Arts at Bethany College there.

Lindsborg papers gave very laudatory reviews of Thora's program, and she has been allotted a definite niche in the musical circles of this pleasant

lege city. At the end of last term Mrs. du Bois was appointed piano instructor of the preparatory department at Bethany College.

Of Thora's recital the Lindsborg News Record says, in part:

"One of the highlights of Lindsborg summer musical activities was the piano recital given by Thora Asgeirsdottir du Bois . . . Mrs. du Bois chose for her opening number the Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue of S. J. Bach, perhaps one of his most demanding keyboard works and certainly a fearful opener with its myriads of highly complex figurations and intricate chromatic modulations. The pianist put her audience completely at ease, however, with her authoritative and commanding approach to the keyboard . . . The second number, Schumann's Sonata in G Minor, was as effective and aesthetically a contrast as one could hope for. . . Mrs. du Bois succeeded in making it a very real and rewarding experience."

Mrs. du Bois rounded out her program with the Holberg Suite by Grieg; Max D'Eaux, by Ravel; and Cinq Brefs by Jean Rivier, all of which were praised by the reviewers as having been done in fine style. In conclusion he says:

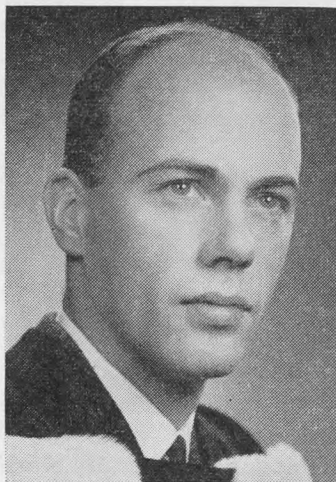
"The excellent choice of program, the musical understanding and technical competence of Thora du Bois, . . . worked together to create an exceedingly enjoyable evening rich in musical experience . . ."

Thora studied music for two years in Paris on an Icelandic Canadian Club Scholarship. There she met Ronald du Bois, who was studying Art in Paris. They were married there, and after coming back to Winnipeg, he taught Art here for a few years, until receiving the appointment as Assistant Professor of Art at Bethany College, in

Lindsborg. Mr. and Mrs. du Bois, with their two children, visited in Winnipeg this summer, with Thora's mother, and a host of relatives and friends. (See Icelandic Canadian: Autumn 1951) —H.D.

★

## DUNCAN MCWHIRTER TAKING COURSE IN JOURNALISM



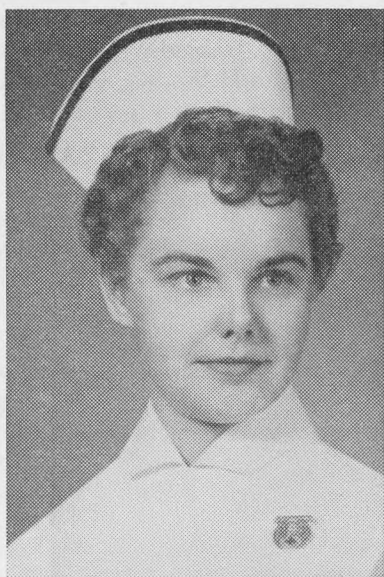
Duncan Thomas McWhirter, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. McWhirter of Fort William, Ont., graduated last spring from the University of Toronto with an honors Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern History. His mother, Gudrun, is a daughter of Soffia and the late Thomas Benjaminson, formerly of Lundar, Man. and now of Winnipeg.

Duncan has decided to take a course in journalism, and for that purpose is continuing his studies in Toronto. He was granted two bursaries, \$125 jointly from the federal and provincial governments and \$150 from the University of Toronto.

This is not the first time this bright student has won bursaries. See Icelandic Canadian, Spring 1956.

Duncan plans to enter the field of journalism in Western Canada.

## JUDITH McWHIRTER WINS MEDAL AND SCHOLARSHIP



**Judith McWhirter**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. McWhirter of Fort William has graduated from the McKellar Hospital School of Nursing. She received a gold medal on graduation and at the same time was awarded a scholarship of \$50.00 for skill in her practical training. She also was awarded an I.O.D.E. scholarship of \$50.00 for Nursing. Judith's mother is Icelandic. See item on her brother, Duncan Thomas McWhirter.

★

## EDMONTON GIRL WINS \$500 SCHOLARSHIP

A brilliant student in high school and university and winner of many scholastic awards, **Miss Denise Helgason**, of Edmonton, Alta. has now been awarded a \$500 Alberta Teachers' Association Scholarship for study in the University of Alberta Faculty of Education.

She graduated in 1955 from High School in Edmonton and continued on

to the University. Over the years has won a University Women's bursary, National Office Management bursary, scholarship of the Board of Governors and an Education Society scholarship.

Denise is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Helgason of Edmonton. Her grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Helgason, long residents of the Argyle district of Southern Manitoba.

★

## WINNIPEG STUDENT WINS SCHOLARSHIP SECOND TIME

A Winnipeg student at Prince Arthur Upper School, St. Louis, Missouri, has won for the second time the National Athletic Scholarship Award for maintaining consistently high standards in scholastics, citizenship and sportsmanship.

He is **Paul Edward Hannesson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Hannesson, 604 Elm Street, Winnipeg.

Mr. Hannesson won the award in 1957 as a sophomore.

★

## STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM THE MAN. TEACHERS' COLLEGE JUNE 1958

The following students of Icelandic descent graduated last June from the Manitoba Teachers' College.

**Cecil Walter Anderson**, 409 Beveridge St., Winnipeg.

**Lillian Hope Anderson**, Riverton.

**Helga Soffia Baldwinson**, Winnipeg.

**Ólöf Baldwinson**, Thicket Portage, Manitoba.

**Laura Jean Bjarnason**, Gladstone.

**Irene June Eggertson**, Hekla, Manitoba.

**Sigurbjörg Lillian Gudmundson**, Thicket Portage, Manitoba.

**Lorelie Gudnason**, Glenboro, Manitoba.

oselie Gudnason, Glenboro, Man.  
 Mary Arlene Hannesson, Langruth,  
 Manitoba.  
 Audrun Freda Hornfjord, Lundar,  
 Manitoba.  
 Anna Steinunn Johnson, Lundar.  
 Lillian Johnson, Riverton, Man.  
 Hubert John Jonasson, Selkirk, Man.  
 Gerard Thor Janes, Selkirk, Man.  
 Ponne Valgerður Kjartanson, Steep  
 Rock, Man.  
 Eivian Johanna Magnusson, Lundar.  
 Eleanor Beatrice Martin, Vidir, Man.  
 Corrairie Bernice Martin, Vidir, Man.  
 Sigurberg Omar Thorlacius, Ashern,  
 Manitoba.

## WINS FULLBRIGHT AWARD

The Senators of the State of Washington in the United States have announced that Rev. Harold S. Sigmar, former Lutheran pastor at Kelso, Wash., has been given a Fullbright Fellowship for the 1958-59 university year. Rev. Sigmar served previously both at Gimli, Man., and Seattle, Wash.

This will enable Rev. Sigmar to pursue advanced studies at the University of Iceland where he is presently lecturer on religious subjects. Rev. Sigmar went to Iceland last year at the invitation of the Department of Religious Studies in the University of Iceland.

## NEWS SUMMARY

**Omar Sigurberg Thorlacius**, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Thorlacius of Ashern, Man., who graduated from Teachers' College in Winnipeg last June, was awarded an I.O.D.E. scholarship.

★

The American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York City this summer announced that Michael Krauss, from the state of Ohio, has been named the first recipient of financial aid from a fund not long ago established by the Icelandic author and Nobel prize winner, Halldór Kiljan Laxness, for scholars desiring to study languages at the University of Iceland. The fund was established by Mr. Laxness while on a United States tour some months ago.

Mr. Krauss has decided to study Icelandic and Celtic influences on the language. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Chicago in 1953 and Master's degree at Columbia University in 1955. In 1956 he won a Certificat D'Etudes Supérieures from Le Faculté des Let-

tres at The Sorbonne, Paris, France. During the 1956-57 term he studied at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Dublin, Eire, and is now preparing to write for his doctor's degree in philosophy at Harvard University.

★

Members of the Edmonton Icelandic Society, Edmonton, Alta., held their annual picnic on Sunday, June 22, at Victoria Park in Edmonton. The weather was warm and sunny and a large number of Icelanders and their families attended.

The children had a full afternoon of races and games, and prizes, ice cream and soft drinks were enjoyed by all.

A brief address was given by S. H. Samson who introduced the new queen, pretty Miss Illa Arnfinson of Wetaskiwin, who succeeded 1957 queen Miss Irene Henrickson. Miss Arnfinson looked most regal in her crown and robe of blue. Coffee and a basket lunch completed a perfect afternoon.

The successful gathering was a credit



to the president, J. Henrickson, and his hard-working committee, consisting A. Arnfinson, S. Arnfinson, H. M. Sumarlidason and W. Halldorson. (contributed by Mrs. F. Smith, sec. of the Icelandic Society of Edmonton.)

★

**Dr. R. E. Helgason**, physician at Glenboro, Man., for 13 years, with Mrs. Helgason and their three children, Roger, Susan and Kathy, left in July for Vancouver, B. C., where, while practising, he will embark on a four-year study of phychiatry and neurology. Dr. Helgason received his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Saskatchewan and his degree in medicine subsequently, in 1945.

★

The following appeared in a recent issue of *Fjelagsbladid*, published by the Icelandic-American Club of South California, edited by Mrs. Gudny M. Thorwaldson:

"The Dinner-Dance given in the Old Dixie Restaurant on June 20th, in celebration of Iceland's Independence Day (June 17) was one of the most enjoyable gatherings our club has ever held. About 125 people sat down to a sumptuous dinner, and upwards of fifty more came later for the program.

"Highlight of the evening was having Mr. Sigurdur Helgason lead the singing and his wife Hildur play the accompaniment. The Helgasons and the Jon Thorbergsons from Morro Bay made the trip down to be with us.

"Miss Emily Sigurdson, whose home is at Gardar, N. D., sang several solos. Miss Sigurdson taught in a Lutheran school in Hawthorne last year and has on several occasions sung for our group. She always thrills her listeners with her beautiful singing voice. Jonas Kristinson gave a talk on the significance of the occasion.

"Among the guests were five more of the younger element in our group from Iceland, who have been visiting here for various lengths of time. Those who have stayed the longest period are the mothers of Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinn Gudmundson in Herm Beach, Siguros Thorsteinsdottir in Minerva Joesteinsdottir. Then there were Johanna Gudlaugsdottir, mother of Jonas Kristinson, as well as the mother of Asta Perches whose name we have not learned.

"Arnones orchestra played for the dance and received high accolades. Charles Arnon's wife is Icelandic, but I do not know her name."

★

The Honourable Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance has announced that the 1958 Series of Canada Savings Bonds will go on sale on October 14th next.

The new Canada Savings Bonds will be offered for sale at 100 per cent up to November 1st, 1958. The bonds will carry interest coupons each covering a one year period.

★

**Miss Valdine G. Johnson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson of Winnipeg, returned early in July from France where for two years she has been a teacher at a school for children of Canadian armed forces personnel. Following her two-year stay on the Continent she toured eleven countries and in the summer of 1957 visited Iceland.

★

Last January a student from Iceland graduated in mechanical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, Cal. He is **Ingi Olafsson**, son of Olafur Sveinsson and Ingvarsdottir who reside in Reykjavik.



## When Burning Lava Stopped

Sent in by Mr. Hanson who is a descendant of Dean Jón Steingrímsson

In the South of Iceland there stands today a very old church which is being carefully preserved because of a miracle, a remarkable answer to prayer, which took place there nearly one hundred and seventy-five years ago. Today this old church, surrounded by streams of lava cooled by the glaciers, bears a silent, but very real, testimony that God is interested in the welfare of man.

In the year 1783 the island of Iceland came closer to destruction than any time during its long history. The volcano, Skaptárjökull, erupted, laying waste great areas of land, killing thousands of sheep and other animals. The population was greatly reduced, thousands of people died as a direct result of the flowing lava or of starvation, because almost all vegetation on the island was destroyed. The quantity of ashes, brimstone, etc., blown up into the atmosphere was so great that nearly the whole European horizon was obscured. Salto-sulphurous rain fell in several countries of the north. In the Faroe lands the ground was covered with sand, ashes and pumice, and luminous meteors were observed in England, Holland and other parts of the continent. In Iceland the terrible eruption was accompanied by great earthquakes. It seemed that the small island was coming close to destruction.

In June, 1783, the flow of lava was so great that for several days the sun was darkened above the island. The day was as dark as midnight. The people despaired of their very lives as the lava advanced, destroying their

farms. At this time the minister in the district, the Rev. Dean Jón Steingrímsson, a man of great faith, gathered all the people together in his small church. He then conducted a service which was to become so famous that it is remembered to this very day.

As the burning lava flowed onward, toward the church, the minister called the people to prayer. He strongly reminded them that the greatest danger at hand was that their souls might be forever consumed in Hell unless they accepted the forgiveness as provided through the love of God and through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. As the people wept before their God and lifted their hearts in prayer to Him, asking that Christ would save them from their sins and the danger at hand, the burning lava stream advanced toward the church. It seemed that the church would be consumed.

The minister continued praying with his people. Perspiration ran down his face and fell on his clerical robes as he struggled in prayer with God. Suddenly he quietly announced to the people that he had seen One praying to the Father who had hands that were wounded. The doors of the church which had been locked during the entire service were opened.

The stream of lava had stopped only a few feet in front of the church. The only explanation that can be offered to this very day for the sudden arrest of the lava is that the powerful hand of a loving God prevented the destruction of this church and the people in it.

## DETTIFOSS

By KRISTJAN JÓNSSON

Þar sem aldrei á grjóti gráu  
gullin mót sólu hlæja blóm  
og ginnhvítar öldur gljúfrin háu  
gimmelfdum nísta heljarklóm,  
kveður þú, foss, minn forni vinur,  
með fimbulrómi sí og æ;  
undir þér bergið sterka stynur  
sem strá í nætur-kulda-blæ.

Kveður þú ljóð um hali horfna  
og hetju-líf á fyrri öld;  
talar þú margt um frelsið forna  
og frægðarinnar dapra kvöld.  
Ljósgeislar á þér leika skærir  
liðnir frá sól í gegn um ský;  
regnboga-litir titra tærir  
tröllauknum bárum þínum í.

Ægilegur og undrafríður  
ertu, hið mikla fossa-val;  
aflramur jafnt þú áfram líður  
í eyðilegum hamra-sal.  
Tímarnir breytast; bölið sára  
það brjóstið slær, er fyrr var glatt;  
en alt af söm þín ógnar-bára  
ofan um veltist gljúfrið bratt.

Stormarnir hvína, stráin sölna,  
stórvaxin alda rís á sæ,  
á rjóðum kinnum rósir fölna  
í regin-köldum hamra-blæ,  
brennandi tár um bleikan vanga  
boga, því hjartað vantra ró —  
en altaf jafnt um æfi langa  
aldan í þínu djúpi hló.

Blunda vil eg í bárum þínum  
þá leikur loksins hníg eg nár,  
þar sem enginn yfir mínu  
önduðu líki fellir tár;  
og þegar sveit með sorgar-hljóði  
syngur döpur af ann'ra ná,  
í jörmun-elfdum íturmóði  
yfir mér skaltu hlæja þá.

## HURLYFALL

Translated by T. A. ANDERSON

There, where ne'er a flower pillow  
On cold gray rock its sun-kissed face  
Where mighty crags the white-capped

Hold in their grim and cold embrace  
There, mighty fall, old friend, the

Thy mammoth voice in songs of mirth  
The very rock beneath thee sighs  
As reeds in chilly blast of night

Singest thou of souls departed,  
Hero-troops who lived and died,  
Of freedom former times imparted  
And glory mournful even-tide.  
Within thee myriad lights assemble  
Shed by the sun through cloudy haze  
The rainbow colors, turn and tread  
In the troll-like billows of thy mane

Wonder-beauteous, awe-inspiring  
Art thou, the peer of water-falls;  
Ever gliding, never tiring,  
Within thy desolate rocky halls.  
The times, they change and tribulation  
Touches the heart so now it weeps  
Yet ever from thy awful station  
Onward thou roll'st o'er craggy steeps

Verdure fades, the storms are raging  
The ocean swell it riseth fast;  
On ruddy cheeks the rose is aging  
In sorrow's icy stinging blast;  
On palled cheeks, the hot tears flow  
Show that the heart is not at ease  
Yet, evermore the wild spray throws  
The waves within thee laugh and tread

When dead to earth I've fallen, glad  
Within thy billows I would sleep,  
Where no fellow-mortal sadly  
O'er my fallen corpse might weep  
And, when friends the mournful

Dirge o'er other corpse shall sing,  
Thou, in zealous mood, astounding  
O'er me shalt with laughter ring.